

By permanently extending the American Rescue Plan's increase to the Earned-Income Tax Credit from \$543 to \$1,502, the Build Back Better Act will benefit roughly 2.8 million Black low-wage workers, including cashiers, cooks, delivery drivers, food preparation workers, and child care providers.

To put it all in perspective, Mr. Speaker, we have before us a once in a century opportunity to make gigantic progress in making ours a more perfect union, and to do it in a single bound with enactment of the Build Back Better Act, the most transformative legislation passed by this Congress since the Great Society and the New Deal.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor Jim Justice of West Virginia who said colorfully earlier this year:

At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now.

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my good friend and Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman BEATTY, for hosting this Special Order Hour and to Congresswoman JACKSON LEE and Congressman TORRES for anchoring it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a consequential moment in our nation's history.

On the tail end of a once-in-a-century pandemic—one that has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, record unemployment rates, and that has left our economy counting the costs—we are in desperate need of substantive relief in all aspects of our society. We need bold action, from bold leadership, in order to deliver bold results—and that's what we have in President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. This agenda is a real opportunity to make historic, transformative investments in projects and programs that are supported by an overwhelming majority of the American people.

As a Senior Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I fought to include several provisions in this agenda through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act that would greatly benefit communities not only in my district, but across the country. These include funding for a program that provides federal dollars to reconnect and revitalize communities historically harmed and marginalized by the construction of the Interstate Highway System; language to ensure prompt payment and sufficient payments to minority and disadvantaged subcontractors; and legislation to establish an electric grid resilience program for states like Texas to weatherize their power grids. Each of these measures—though different in nature and purpose—will collectively contribute to the rebuilding of our economy by creating more good-paying, equitable job opportunities.

And as Chairwoman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am steadfastly committed to strengthening our nation's research and innovation capabilities through the Build Back Better Act—both to ensure our continued international competitiveness and the wellbeing of our citizens here at home. I believe that investments in research and development now will pay untold dividends for the future health and prosperity of our nation, which is why we put resources in this bill that will help us address the climate crisis, rebuild after this pandemic, promote innovation, and renew and repair our research infrastructure. It also makes an unprecedented investment in the National Science Foundation, tapping into the diverse talent and institutions from across our nation. We need a STEM workforce that represents the rich diversity of America—because we cannot continue to lead in science and technology if we do not tap into all the brainpower our nation has to offer. To make sure of this, we included a provision that provides resources to support research capacity building at our nation's minority-serving institutions and invests in research, scholarships, and fellowships across all STEM disciplines.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus has been and will continue to be at the forefront of these negotiations. Fifty-seven members—and six committee chairs—strong, our presence at the table, on behalf of our diverse constituencies, remains steadfast and will ultimately serve as the driving force behind our work For the People.

□ 2045

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, in recent days, I have been doing some research. In fact, one of the things I was looking at is the average income over the last couple of decades going back to 1991, and this was average annual wage according to the Social Security Administration, so maybe somebody would take issue with their accuracy. But according to their numbers, during the Clinton administration, the average American's income went up each year about \$1,000 a year. So over President Clinton's 8 years in office, the average income went up about \$8,000 over those 8 years.

Under President Bush, it was a little more than \$1,000 a year during his 8 years.

But during the Obama administration it was between a \$7,000 and \$8,000 increase during the Obama administration.

Then during the 4 years of the Trump administration, the average income went up about \$2,000 a year. It was between \$7,000 and \$8,000 for the 4 years, a dramatic increase.

But I was shocked, as I was looking at different numbers, to find that the net worth for Black households in

America during the 8 years of the Obama administration went down by 30 percent, on average. During the Trump administration, it didn't go down. It went up significantly.

As I look at what is being proposed in the Build Back Better program, and I see this administration having canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, which certainly was going to, and has, caused an escalation in fuel prices and energy prices, and of course, President Biden released the penalties that had been put on the Russian natural gas pipeline, so it is doing great now, and took off some of the penalties on Iran—anyway, we have seen the price of energy going up significantly.

It brought back to mind yet again the Honorable John Dingell's comment. He was looking forward to pushing through, in essence, a socialized medicine program through the committee he was chair of in 2009 and 2010, but he was famously asked about the cap-and-trade bill. He responded that the cap-and-trade bill is not only a tax, but it is a great big tax.

He explained before that when you raise the price of energy, you are not hurting the billionaires, the megawealthy. It is an inconvenience to them when you raise the price of energy, be it electricity, propane, natural gas, coal, whatever it is. It is an inconvenience to the very wealthy, but to those who are on fixed incomes, those who are scraping by working so hard every week and just getting by, if you increase the price of gasoline, electricity, energy, you just devastate those households. It is not just a little tax to them. It is devastating.

The inflation that comes with an upward explosion of the price of fuel and energy, but especially fuel, as this administration has done, it inflates the price of everything. There is just not much of anything, unless you are buying from some pickup truck or some roadside kiosk—otherwise, you are having to pay a lot of extra energy costs, whether it is for the ingredients of something you are buying or whether it is the product getting to market. But usually, it is all of the above. The energy prices inflate costs of everything, basically.

That is what has happened to the working poor in America. That is what has happened to seniors on fixed incomes. They are being devastated as prices continue to skyrocket, with no end in sight.

On a trip some years back during the Obama administration, some of us went to Germany, and we met with some of their energy leaders. In one meeting, the driver of our little van was from Berlin, and he sat in and listened. I was talking to him privately after the meeting, and he said I hear all these rich people talking about how great our green energy is in Germany, but I have had to go from having one job to having three jobs, hardly ever getting to see my family, so they could brag about our green energy. But it is

destroying my family. It has completely destroyed my family time. I am having to work these two other jobs just to cover our energy costs. So it is kind of hard listening to them brag about it when it is coming out of my hide. I am the one, and people just like me all over Germany are the ones, who are paying for them to be able to brag about our green energy because it is costing us a tremendous amount in the way of personal time, family time, and additional time working to pay for their bragging.

As we look at these issues and the costs skyrocketing in America, who has benefited? Well, China has benefited dramatically. We know they are still on course to have 100 new coal-powered energy plants go online over the next couple of years. They don't care.

Of course, when we had coal-powered plants here in the U.S.—there are not many left—but when we had them, they have scrubbers in there that are taking pollutants out of the air before it ever gets out of the stacks to the air.

If we are doing the coal burning here in the U.S., it is not so hard on our environment as it is in China or India, but especially China, because when people are just struggling to survive and to have enough money to put food on the table for their families, they are not that worried about how their yard looks or how things look, how the environment is. The same is true not only for an individual but for a country.

If the economy is struggling, the people in that country are not as interested in cleaning up the environment. We will have to wait, they think, until we are making decent money, and then we can worry about the environment.

Here in the United States, though, if you go back to 2007, every year since then, including through the Trump years, we have been producing 1.3 percent less carbon dioxide. We can debate about what that does to the environment, whether it makes the temperature warmer.

I have read where experts have said if you have a choice between the temperature getting slightly warmer or slightly colder, you want warmer because if it is getting slightly colder, that means there is less time for crops to grow. If it is slightly warmer, not too much warmer, then you have more time for crops to grow. You have more food, and you have fewer people starving.

There are a lot of areas for debate, but for those who are concerned about carbon dioxide emissions, we have been on the right track. We continue to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we are putting out in this country.

So there is nothing about building back better. This has been going on for a long time. Largely, we are told by the experts, that is because we have been converting coal plants to natural gas, and natural gas is such a clean-burning fuel.

For those who want to get rid of all fossil fuels, if they would just take a

serious look at all the things in the room in which they are located or the car in which they are located, they will find that so much of what we have that has made our lives easier, helping people rest better, is as a result of the use of fossil fuel. There are so many products that cannot be manufactured without natural gas as part of the manufacturing process. You have to have natural gas to make so many products.

I was looking at getting some plastic composite boards for part of the area in our backyard so they wouldn't deteriorate so often, and they are expensive. But when they last for decades instead of a matter of short years, it looks like a good thing. That is using recycled plastic, finding more and more uses for that plastic, fiberglass.

There are so many things we can't produce. Synthetic fibers, so much of the carpets and rugs we have are synthetic. The toothbrush, you wouldn't have a modern-day toothbrush—and I realize that, yes, there are people who have used bark off of certain trees to brush their teeth. I get that, but I kind of like having a modern-day toothbrush myself. You wouldn't have that without fossil fuel, particularly natural gas.

□ 2100

People say we need more electric cars. We need to get rid of fossil fuel. You cannot currently manufacture an electric car without the use of fossil fuel. Even if you don't use fossil fuel to power the vehicle, you are going to have to use it in the production of things within the car or there will be no car. So, I don't know, maybe someday somebody will build a wooden car, but wooden batteries are not going to work.

For those of us that recognize how the length of life has gotten even longer during our modern history, medicine advances have just been extraordinary. There is a great book, "The Five Thousand Year Leap", that points out that when settlers came to America, they used basically the same type of farming methodology and tools that have been used for thousands of years. There hasn't been a whole lot of change.

But if you look at the last 150 years in the United States and in Western civilization, you see dramatic increases and advances in the way that we have progressed, whether it is farming, medicine. Heck, if you go back 100 years or so when medical historians say in the early 1900s, up to that point, for the whole of human history, you had a better chance of getting sicker after seeing a doctor than you did at getting better.

And then you look at the—since 1910, 1920—some say it might be the 1918 protocols during that pandemic—but around that time, you started having a better chance of getting better after seeing a doctor. And look at where we are now. People go to the doctor and expect to be made well because we have

been able, by the grace of God, to develop some different cures. Life has gotten longer. Life has gotten better quality.

So much of what we have is made by the use of fossil fuels. We need to do it cleanly, as cleanly as possible. But, again, when you take an economy in the direction that the build back better Biden administration has been doing as we head to the toilet with this economy—and there is no end in sight for this race to the bottom—then you realize we have come so far and now we are going in the wrong direction.

There have been times, like World War II when we were struggling mightily, but we are not going through a world war right now. We should be doing well. And we saw, during the Trump administration for the first time in decades, something had happened.

In 1990, when I brought a friend to speak to our Rotary Club, he had said, We are going the wrong direction. We are becoming more and more reliant on foreign countries for our energy. It has been years, he said, since we have been energy independent, and we are going the wrong way and it is going to destroy this country, if we can't produce the energy we need.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years later—not even 30 years later—we were energy independent, the biggest producer of fossil fuels in the world. And we used it cleaner than anybody else. Virtually almost every other country, maybe some small ones, do a little better.

But China knows that they are not going to be breathing their own air, it turns with the planet, and we end up breathing as much as they do right here in America. Not the clean air we produce more of every year for many years, but the polluted air that China is letting off as they continue to move toward putting us in their wake as they move toward becoming the greatest economy in the world. And spending money, massive amounts of money we don't have, creates not only inflation but it weakens this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard some in recent days say if we are not careful, we are going to end up like Greece. And actually, if you look at the debt that we had at the end of the Obama administration, we were already Greece. The difference is, we got to produce our own currency. Greece was using the euro, so they didn't get to decide to create a lot more money in their system. And the dollar was the world standard. It was the world currency.

I know there are companies, including China, they are advocating against the dollar being the world currency and that it is used to buy oil in the world market, but that hasn't happened. I am very thankful for that. But if we were not the world currency, and we didn't produce our own money, then we would already be in as big a trouble as Greece is because of the recklessness. And we are seeing it like never before in this administration.

Yes, it is true the Obama administration, with the Democrats helping them, they hit between \$1.5 and \$1.6 trillion deficit in one year. Well, this administration, this Democrat majority are working very hard to eclipse that by a lot.

We were warned back when we had over a trillion-dollar deficit more than one year, the agencies that rate country's economies and their currency and their debt, they may have to rate, downgrade, our debt. Standard & Poor's did that because we wouldn't get our spending under control—not enough.

If any other rating agency had downgraded our debt, then the cost of borrowing money would have gone up dramatically and we would have ended up spending more paying interest than we were taking care of seniors who were counting on their fixed income. So there are some dark days ahead if we continue on this course of spending money we don't have. It is like everything this administration can see to throw money at that might help create more Democrat Party voters and they are throwing money at it.

So people were shocked, including Democrat friends, they were shocked to hear that this administration is proposing paying \$450,000 to legal immigrants that were separated from a child. Well, we know that did happen some during the Trump years. We know that it has continued to happen during the Biden years; that it happened under the Obama administration. And it can be a good idea until we are sure that an adult with a child that is already breaking our laws by coming in illegally is actually related to and, hopefully, the parent of that child instead of part of the drug cartels that continue to use them in sex trafficking. And we have had people that turned out not to be related to the child they were claiming, and we have been able to interrupt that. And so it is important that we don't just take this at face value, especially when we have reports of children being recycled to come across with people over our border illegally.

So under the Biden administration, if you think, Okay, these people come in, they break U.S. law, we are going to give each one \$450,000. And that might not mean much to somebody who has a son that sold paintings for \$500,000, and I wouldn't object if the Biden administration wanted to give each illegal immigrant a painting that Hunter Biden had done. If they said, Here is your half a million; here is another painting that Hunter Biden has done. Enjoy it. Maybe you can sell it for half a million and you will be set for life. Let's try that.

Mr. Speaker, \$450,000, if you look at the Social Security administration, the wages, well, for 2020, the most recent numbers we have, the average income for an American last year was \$53,000—like \$53,300 or something like that—but \$53,000 a year.

□ 2110

Now, the rate is normally around 22 percent. There is data that indicates the effective rate paid for income tax may be around 13 to 14 percent. Let's just round it and say that the average American making \$53,000 a year pays 20 percent income tax. That would be \$10,600 a year that a person making \$53,000 would pay in Federal income tax.

If you took all \$10,600 of Federal income tax coming from the average wage-earner of \$53,000 a year, and if you took that \$10,600 and applied that toward the \$450,000 President Biden wants to give to each of these illegal immigrants, it would take 42½ years of the average American wage Federal income tax to pay one person who broke the U.S. laws and came into the country illegally. That is what appears to be justice to the Biden administration.

And how is our President looking to the rest of the world? The story today, as he came into the G20 Summit, he came in—according to the article I saw—20 minutes late. He said, in essence, sorry to be late. He had been trying to get past the elevators—they had a problem with the elevators and that is why he was 20 minutes late. Somebody needs to help him.

I think it would be helpful not to leave people from the biggest countries, except for China and Russia, they didn't come—their leaders didn't come—but the rest, let's show them a little more respect by not making them wait 20 minutes for our President to show up. I think that would be a good thing. Kind of lend a better atmosphere to those type of meetings.

Perhaps then you wouldn't have foreign reporters saying things like: President Biden looks like he needs a nursing home and a hot bowl of soup. We need to help our President give a better image of America. I know there is no intention for our President causing problems like that, none whatsoever, so I am avoiding in engaging in personalities. But I think it would be good—there are so many people helping the President—to help him represent our country well.

So in an article here, a \$450,000 payment to illegal aliens would exceed various programs for American citizens. And, of course, we, in Congress, did a good thing in recent years. We felt like the families of those people who have lost a loved one in combat, they should have been getting more than the measly thousands of dollars they were, so we increased the amount that the family of an American hero who was killed in combat would get. It was increased to \$400,000.

Well, we find out that the Biden administration wants to provide more than we provide to the family who has lost a loved one in combat representing and defending our country and our national interests. Someone who crossed the border illegally, according to this administration, should get an extra \$50,000 more than those who died for this country.

We also know—and I am pleased that Secretary Buttigieg is back from paternity leave because we do have a real crisis in our supply chain. We didn't have this problem during the Trump administration. It sure seemed to be a good idea the way we were manufacturing more of the things we need in America. I am not a big fan of tariffs, but as I told President Trump, since you are simply using them as a tool to get better trade deals then I will vote for those tariffs for such use, so that we can get more fairness in our agreements with foreign countries. That worked out. President Trump did make some good deals.

We are seeing all that fall aside as this administration seems to be more dedicated to helping China, Russia, Iran, and OPEC nations do better with their economy than we are here at home.

I realize there are some people here in Washington that feel like America has more than it deserves. I believe God has blessed us more than we deserve in America. We are seeing those things change as we have continued to forget more and more just who the source is for the blessings in this country.

In fact, what occurred to me is, instead of build back better, as we see the economy in shambles, prices going through the roof, more and more people now being fired, the economy appears headed in even deeper trouble the further we go. Maybe instead of build back better, we could call it Biden's bulldozings of our blessings.

Here is an article from Fortune. No sign of relief. The global supply chain crisis could last well into February. And as I thought back, Vice President HARRIS—it seems like it was back in August when she was speaking to some folks—somebody made fun of her for saying: You may want to order your Christmas presents early this year so you make sure you have them. I didn't know why anybody would make fun of her because, as it turns out, she was actually exactly right. Apparently she knew back in August we were going to have trouble getting the things we need in America.

I have been amazed to see car lots more empty than they have cars. Shocking. I have never seen some of these car lots with so few cars ever in my life.

There is an article from The Hill: More people in Manchin's, Sinema's home States want to hold off on new spending. That is from polls—an article by Mychael Schnell from The Hill.

□ 2120

People have been trying to convince Senator MANCHIN and Senator SINEMA that they just need to sign off on spending trillions more dollars. But recent polls apparently are showing that people in their home States appreciate them not agreeing to more and more of the runaway spending that would just increase inflation.

One other thing people are noticing—a Washington Times story from Stephen Dinan titled “Biden administration expands no-go zones where ICE can’t arrest illegal immigrants”—so millions more are coming in, and fewer and fewer are being deported.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for people to understand that this feeling that we need to secure our borders doesn’t come from any kind of xenophobia. I look at the Hispanic culture, and though generalizing can be dangerous, generally speaking, I see faith in God; I see a hard work ethic; and I see a devotion to family. Well, those are things I believe made America the great country it has been. We need more of that help.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the contributions that immigrants have made from countries all over the world to this country, to make it as powerful and as great as it is, we want immigration. No country in the world, even those bigger than the United States, is as generous with providing visas as the United States is—over 1 million a year.

But as Milton Friedman pointed out, if we are going to provide welfare in this country, which started back in the 1960s, then we can’t have open borders or this country will be over very soon. It will be overwhelmed with people coming in. It will destroy the golden goose that some look at the U.S. as being, and there won’t be any country to flee to looking for a better life.

Some in allied countries tell me: If you lose your freedom in America, there won’t be any freedom in the world. We will all lose our freedom pretty quickly if you lose yours.

This is critical stuff. But I think the biggest danger of people swarming across our border, as they have been doing this year unimpeded, is the danger that Benjamin Franklin pointed out. He didn’t go into detail, but as most people here remember, he was asked by a lady as he left the Constitutional Convention at the conclusion: What have you given us?

And as most everybody here knows, he replied: A republic, madam, if you can keep it.

A republic, a republican form of government, that is with a little R, not the Republican Party. A republic is what the Romans came up with after they looked at democracy from the Greeks. They actually had a real democracy where most everybody participated in the big decisions. Fortunately, they realized you can’t let everybody vote as a juror in law cases, so they restricted those law case juries to only having 501 people. As I understand it, it was 501 people on the jury that voted to make Socrates drink poison as his penalty.

That is what you see, Mr. Speaker, when you have too many participating in a process. It gets out of hand. You get a handful, they start running, and they get people fired up. Before you know it, Mr. Speaker, one of the finest men in the country is ordered to drink poison.

Mr. Speaker, you have to be careful. That is what the Romans realized, so they created a republic. We like the democratic idea that people get to vote and participate in government, but let’s have them elect representatives, then the representatives study the issues, and they vote on behalf of the rest of the country. If we don’t like how they are voting, then we throw them out in the next election and select another representative. That is the republic form of government.

Republics generally have not lasted more than 200 years. We are 30 years or so past the 1789 ratification of our Constitution. Some would say: Well, when we pass 200 years, we are living on borrowed time.

We know history, but not enough. Too many of our schools quit teaching history because the Federal Government got involved in education.

Is education an enumerated power under the Constitution for the Federal Government to be involved in? No, it is not. But in 1979, President Carter created the Department of Education. As a result, the percentage of teachers in education has dropped dramatically.

Nearly three-fourths of the employees in K-12 education in Texas were teachers. But then after the Department of Education comes along, you got more bureaucrats here making more requirements for the folks in Austin and every State capital. So those folks have to hire more people to answer the mandates of the Department of Education in Washington. And to get their information, they have to mandate more people in every school board in elementary school.

I had a fantastic public school education in elementary school, middle school, and high school. In elementary school, we had a principal, the principal had an assistant, then there was the janitor, then there were the people who worked in the cafeteria, and that was it. Now, every school has to have so many people working in the administration gathering information to send to the State capital so they can send it to Washington.

As I recall, it was either late eighties or early nineties, I think it was early nineties, but I was on the board of Former Students of Texas A&M. I was asking the president, we had some other people there who worked on analyzing SAT scores. I said: I understand the SAT test has now been recalibrated so that students will do better than they have in the past for answering the same number of questions right. Yes, it has been recalibrated. People were embarrassed that SAT scores were a lot lower now than they used to be.

If you took the SAT in the early seventies, your score now would probably be around 200 points higher than it was back then. I was intrigued by that.

Why did we have to recalibrate the SAT? Well, it was so people wouldn’t think schools were failing during the nineties. So SAT scores came back up not because they were doing better but because the scoring was recalibrated.

That was a rather interesting illumination on education, but we continue to see problems.

As both Republican and Democrat Presidents have been pushing more control, I think President Trump tried to give more control back locally. But what has happened is the Federal Government has taken more and more control right here in Congress. We continue to pass stuff that says: You don’t get your money back. Of course, we know the money comes from the States up here. But we are not going to give you your money back unless you do this, that, or the other like we tell you.

Well, one of the mandates has been you had to pass this federally mandated test, and the federally mandated test was extremely light on history. I am told that there are times when there isn’t any history, maybe one history question, and it is not always good history, if a question is asked.

□ 2130

So I hear from schools back home: We have to teach to the mandated test because if any student doesn’t pass the federally mandated test, we don’t get all of that Federal money that came from us back to us. They keep it for that student.

So to avoid not getting back even as much of our own money as we should, we have got to get people prepared to pass the test. So some schools, they got rid of music, they got rid of art. And some of us are big advocates and we go: Wait a minute. Do you not understand that when it comes to music, it comes to art, you are getting synapses to fire in the brain that might not fire otherwise, and if you can get more synapses firing, then the student’s brain can accumulate more, work better, and then overall do better scoring?

Look, we have got to get them to pass the test, I am told, and those things, music, art, are not on the test, so we have got to concentrate on making sure the students are ready for that federally-mandated test. Well, that is a shame.

Music and art add dramatically to life. And there are some awesome art teachers. They didn’t do too well with me. Apparently, there is an art gene in my background. My dad was artistic; had a daughter that was very artistic. But it was a latent gene in me. I see what it adds in the art contests that all of the Representatives, I think most of us have in our districts, but you see the incredible products that these kids are able to create, and it is really inspiring.

Yet so many are having to cut back or get rid of art altogether. Why? Because of the Federal mandates from here on high, on Mount Olympus, on Capitol Hill.

It is important, also, on how we treat people. When I go to the border, I don’t mistreat anybody that comes in illegally. I try to help all I can, but they have come into the country illegally.

And we need to get back to the Trump policies before we get overwhelmed. And going back to the point that Benjamin Franklin made: It takes work to keep a republic. It doesn't just happen. That is why it has happened so rarely. That is why the United States of America is such an anomaly in history.

There has never been a country like this. Even Solomon's Israel didn't have all of the individual opportunities, all of the individual assets and comforts that we have here in America. It is an amazing place, but it takes work. It takes education of our children, training them up so they understand what it takes to preserve a republic, a representative form of government, and getting stronger and stronger as we have done until more recent years.

When you have people flooding in, I mean, 2 million people this year, this administration has 3 more years, so are we going to have 8 million, at least 8 million more people enter this country illegally? They are not coming from countries that understand how to preserve a republic. And I will tell you some of the very best citizens we have in this whole country are people who went through the process of becoming legal citizens, and I hear from them a lot in my district.

They love America because they know how it can be outside of America, and they don't want our country becoming like those countries they came from. People from Venezuela, people from Central America, from Eastern Bloc countries are some of the best citizens we have got, some from Russia. My cousin married a Russian, and she knows. We were talking about it last week, and she is feeling a sense of urgency. We are losing what we have had. We are becoming more like the place I was so anxious to leave.

It takes work to keep a republic and to enjoy the blessings we have received. People who are flooding in, they have never been trained on what it takes to preserve a republic. And one of the big issues to so many people during the COVID pandemic has been the unprecedented grab of power that the Federal Government has never had before. Never. We have had pandemics that were a lot more deadly than COVID, but no one has ever had the nerve to tell people who were not infected, who had thriving businesses, that they had to close down their business. We are going to let these people open. We are not letting you open.

Thirty years ago, they would have opened anyway, probably 20 years ago, and they would have won in court without question. You can't shut down business. It is unprecedented. And for heaven's sake, to tell churches they couldn't open. For the huge majority of our history, when there was a time of emergency, including a pandemic, people felt like they needed to be in church praying; that they needed to be asking God for help. And for the first time in our history, we didn't have a President that issued a National Day of

Prayer & Fasting, asking God to help us. For the first time in our history, we had a national proclamation: You have got to close businesses. You have got to close churches. You can't meet. In some places States said you can't even sing in church because you open your mouth. We can't allow that.

And I know there are still a lot of mixed signals on masks. It is interesting. There are cloth masks. I had a mask getting on a plane with, one of the SHEMA97 masks designed in Israel. It has four layers of cloth that are ionized to kill germs. They don't just catch them. They will kill germs.

The flight attendant said: I can see your nose, so that mask can't be any good. It can't be any good, she says. And she was wearing one of the little blue-and-white masks. Talk about not doing any good. Although, in fairness, I have read that there were some studies that said those little blue-and-white masks can decrease your percentage of getting COVID by 0.2 percent. So 0.2 percent, that is what it is, great. Wear one of those little, cloth masks.

But then we see down in Florida that has been the most open, that they have fewer cases percentagewise. They are doing better than any other State in the country and they have been the most open State we have had. So it is interesting. And I have an article here from The Gateway Pundit. "It Wasn't Just Beagles and Monkeys—Fauci's NIH Also Funded Medical Experiments on AIDS Orphans in New York City."

I read somewhere else that these were Black orphans that had AIDS, and the Fauci NIH was doing experiments on them, according to this article of Jim Hoft. They reported that 25 children, those Black orphanage babies, died during the drug studies they were doing on those poor little babies. An additional 55 children died following the studies while they were in foster care. Tim Ross, director of the child welfare program at Vera—I am looking for what that stands for—the Vera Institute, that as of 2009, 29 percent of the remaining 417 children who were used in drug studies had died; 532 children that are admitted to have been used now.

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That was in the last 20 years. I don't know if Dr. Fauci has been asked if he knew about that. We found out he lied about funding gain of function in China.

Another article from Fox Business, Elizabeth Faddis, that Dr. Fauci is facing a demand from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to divulge information regarding the alleged use of an experimental drug on puppies.

I guarantee you, as more people find out that NIH was using orphan Black AIDS babies for drug experiments, that killed many of them, there will be even more cries from both sides of the aisle on answers. I thought we were so far past anything like that. I mean, after the outrageous Tuskegee experiments,

I can't believe we have been doing that same stuff in the last 20 years. Somebody needs to be held accountable for these things.

We are in deeply troubling times, and there is a good chance that if we don't get back to making sure children in America know how to sustain a republic, we are headed for losing it.

It is because of a fear of that, a fear of the loss of freedom, that caused me to leave the bench and run and try to get elected to Congress so I could make a difference in legislation, so we could try to salvage this little experiment in self-government. But it seems pretty clear it is not going to last much longer.

You can't absorb 8 million people, who not only most of them don't speak the language, but they are adults who have no clue, have never been educated. They have certainly got the capacity to learn, but they have never been educated on what it takes to preserve self-government and the blessings that we have in this country.

If they are not educated on that, if they are simply handed \$450,000 each, then that is all they know. Wow, this is a country where you come in, demand money, they give it to you. You can't sustain a country like that, and we won't. No one ever has.

In Rome, there was one Caesar that figured that bread and circuses were being given to keep people peaceable, and it was keeping them from working. He tried to do away with it. But by then, it was too late.

Let's act now before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Gloria J. Lett, Deputy Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Thursday, October 28, 2021:

H.R. 5763. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Monday, November 1, 2021:

H.R. 1899. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2911. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3475. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic".

H.R. 3919. An act to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission prohibits authorization of radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk.